

Chapter 13

Female Governance in COVID–19: Complex Nexis of Psychology, Society, and Governance in Educational Sector of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This chapter shines a light on the critical role of women’s governance during COVID-19, the Complex nexus of psychology, society, and Governance. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically transformed the educational landscape worldwide, Presenting unprecedented challenges and pressure. This pandemic is, no doubt, a threat to humanity (Poon & Peiris, 2020). Female leaders in education sectors across various countries have been instrumental in shaping responses to the pandemic, often demonstrating a unique blend of empathy, resilience, and strategic foresight. This chapter delves into the complex nexus of psychology society and governance, exploring how women’s governance has influenced the educational sectors during COVID-19, the societal perceptions and pressures faced by these leaders, and the psychological ramifications of their roles. The COVID-19 pandemic also brought unprecedented challenges to educational systems worldwide, exposing and exacerbating existing inequalities.

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INTRODUCTION

Female governance refers to the involvement and leadership of women in the decision-making processes and management within organizations, institutions, or governmental bodies. It emphasizes the active participation of women in leadership roles, such as CEOs, board members, ministers, or heads of departments. Female governance aims to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion, recognizing that diverse perspectives can lead to more innovative and effective solutions. It often challenges traditional gender roles and strives to create environments where women can influence policies and practices. This concept is critical in promoting gender equality, enhancing organizational performance, and driving societal progress by ensuring that women's voices and experiences shape decision-making processes.

Female leadership has been critically examined during the COVID-19 pandemic, where governance was put to the test across sectors. From healthcare to education and the commercial sector, women leaders showed remarkable resilience and adaptability in crisis management. In the face of global uncertainty, leaders such as New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel stood out for their compassionate leadership, balancing both public health and economic concerns. In contrast, female leaders in Pakistan, such as Dr. Yasmin Rashid and Dr. Shaista Sohail, tackled not only the healthcare challenges but also the technological divide that threatened to derail educational and commercial activities during prolonged lockdowns.

Expansion of Geographical Scope

This study explores female governance in two distinct geographical settings: the West (with a focus on countries like New Zealand, Germany, and Finland) and Pakistan. By contrasting the responses of female leaders in both educational and commercial sectors, the chapter illuminates how women's leadership differed based on cultural, infrastructural, and societal constraints. In the West, more developed economies and educational systems allowed female leaders to innovate and implement policies effectively. However, in Pakistan, where the commercial and educational sectors are often resource-constrained, female leaders face additional challenges.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, female leaders in the West demonstrated notable resilience, empathy, and effectiveness in managing the crisis. Leaders like New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel garnered international praise for their proactive and transparent approaches. Ardern's swift implementation of strict lockdown measures and her empathetic communication style were credited with keeping New Zealand's infection rates low. Merkel's scientific background and clear communication helped maintain

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